

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of: :  
: Yoshiaki Hirano et al. :  
: :  
Serial No.: To be assigned : Art Unit: To be assigned  
: :  
Filed: Herewith : Examiner: To be assigned  
: :  
For: CROSSLINKED POLYMER, : Atty Docket: 1581/00268  
METHOD FOR :  
MANUFACTURING IT AND :  
USE THEREOF :  
:

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Prior to initial examination, please amend the above-captioned case as follows.

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows.

8. (Amended) A method of using the crosslinked polymer according to Claim 1 in  
a reaction step

wherein said reaction step is a step of carrying out an ion exchange reaction or a  
step of carrying out a reaction for activating an active hydrogen atom in an active  
hydrogen-containing compound.

9. (Amended) A method of producing a hydroxy alkyl (meth) acrylate by the  
reaction of a (meth) acrylic acid with an oxirane compound,

wherein the crosslinked polymer according to Claim 1 is used as a catalyst.

10. (Amended) A method of producing glycols by the reaction of water with an oxirane compound,

wherein the crosslinked polymer according to Claim 1 is used as a catalyst.

Please add the following new claims.

13. (New) A method of using the crosslinked polymer according to Claim 2 in a reaction step

wherein said reaction step is a step of carrying out an ion exchange reaction or a step of carrying out a reaction for activating an active hydrogen atom in an active hydrogen-containing compound.

14. (New) A method of producing a hydroxy alkyl (meth) acrylate by the reaction of a (meth) acrylic acid with an oxirane compound,

wherein the crosslinked polymer according to Claim 2 is used as a catalyst.

15. (New) A method of producing glycols by the reaction of water with an oxirane compound,

wherein the crosslinked polymer according to Claim 2 is used as a catalyst.

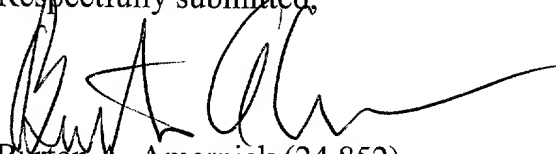
### REMARKS

The claims have been amended to eliminate multiple dependency and to improve their format. None of these amendments is believed to involve any new matter.

Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that the foregoing amendments be entered, that

the application as so amended receive an examination on the merits, and that the claims as now presented receive an early allowance.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Burton A. Amernick', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Burton A. Amernick (24,852)  
Connolly Bove Lodge & Hutz LLP  
1990 M Street, N.W., Suite 800  
Washington, D.C. 20036-3425  
Telephone: 202-331-7111

Date: 6-15-01

## APPENDIX – MARKED UP VERSION

8. (Amended) A method of using the crosslinked polymer according to Claim 1 [or 2] in a reaction step

wherein said reaction step is a step of carrying out an ion exchange reaction or a step of carrying out a reaction for activating an active hydrogen atom in an active hydrogen-containing compound.

9. (Amended) A method of producing a hydroxy alkyl (meth) acrylate by the reaction of a (meth) acrylic acid with an oxirane compound,

wherein the crosslinked polymer according to Claim 1 [or 2] is used as a catalyst.

10. (Amended) A method of producing glycols by the reaction of water with an oxirane compound,

wherein the crosslinked polymer according to Claim 1 [or 2] is used as a catalyst.